CTR Grant #826-R1 Progress Report No. 2

Thomas R. Dawber, M.D., M.P.H. - Principal Investigator
Boston University School of Medicine
80 East Concord Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02118

Dates covered:
July 1, 1972 -
January 1, 1973

Title of Grant: SMOKING CLASSES, RISK FACTORS AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

The examination of the Framingham Study population and the evaluation of deaths and illness in the population has proceeded according to schedule. Four thousand one hundred ninety-three subjects still remained alive at the time the study was begun in September 1971. The schedule called for examination of 2,513 of these subjects through October 1972. Of this number 1,934 completed their examination. The 579 not yet examined are accounted for as follows:

Exam scheduled	53
Died before exam	56
Incapacitated (but living in Framingham)	51
Not living in area	102
Refused	104
No response to contact by mail	96
Address unknown	65
No information available in current file	52

An additional 106 of the remaining 1,580 scheduled for examination by September 1973 have also been examined slightly ahead of schedule. We therefore have good reason to anticipate success in re-evaluating the entire population by September 1973.

Some problems have developed relative to the availability of past data on the subjects in the study. The National Heart and Lung Institute

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has been unwilling to release the data which have been processed by them until a re-examination of the population has been completed. This has made it necessary for us to prepare data in our possession for processing. This procedure is currently under way and when completed will provide us with our own set of information on the previous examinations. From these data and our current examination findings we will be able to carry out the necessary analyses.

Meanwhile we have been reviewing records to collect additional data regarding the age of onset of myocardial infarction and other manifestations of coronary heart disease in smokers and non-smokers. This calls for a comparison of individuals at the same age at entry into the study. The principal investigator has been working on this project and has been attempting to solve certain problems involved in making the comparison. It is believed that most of these problems are now solved and that we can proceed to develop a manuscript covering the subject at an early date in 1973. Preliminary observations suggest that the time gap between the age of development of myocardial infarction in cigarette smokers versus non-smokers decreases with age. Continued observations of the population will be necessary to determine whether cigarette smoking merely precipitated a slightly earlier development of this disorder or was a sine qua non. Current data indicate an excess number of cases in the smoking group over what would be expected and thus suggest that in certain individuals cigarette smoking may not be merely an early precipitator of the event. An attempt will be made to determine whether it may be possible on the basis of certain characteristics to determine the latter group.

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The records on pipe and cigar smokers are being reviewed to recode the various smoking categories included in this combined group. The objective is to obtain a group of pure cigar smokers and pure pipe smokers and to determine their outcome. If there are insufficient numbers of subjects in the sub-groups, an attempt will be made to combine our findings with those of one or more other similar studies.

A study of alcohol consumption and coronary heart disease has been carried out and a preliminary manuscript prepared. The findings are such that it appears desirable to await the completion of the current examinations to obtain a twenty-year follow up.

Plans will be made prior to July 1, 1973, for a second examination of the subjects beginning in September 1973. This data will mark the completion of twenty years' observation of the entire cohort. We plan to make a number of reports based on the completion of the twenty years of observation originally planned by the National Heart Institute.

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